

REMARKS

In the Office Action, mailed April 28, 2006, claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over to Park et al. (EP 1 382 254 A1) in view of Kean (U.S. Patent No. 3,812,776).

Claim 1 has been amended. New claim 11 has been added. Support for the amendments to claim 1 and new claim 11 can be found at paragraph [0029] of the specification.

Claims 1-11 are currently pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

None of the foregoing references, individually or combined, discuss "wherein a screw hole communicated with the plurality of guide grooves is formed at one end of each of the tray holder members and an adjusting member moving the movable tray member is connected with the screw hole, and the adjusting member moves in a transverse direction towards the slit, such that the movable tray member and the respective combining projections move towards the transverse direction of the slit, to thereby adjust a width of the slit," as recited in amended claim 1, for example.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that Park et al. fails to discuss "an adjusting member" as recited in amended claim 1, for example. However, the Examiner asserts that Kean makes up for the deficiency of Park et al. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

In contrast, Kean discusses a two-piece rotary spit for barbecuing roasts and fowl (see Abstract and FIG. 1). The rotary spit includes a rod section having a handle on an outer end and a binder screw 48 to secure a slidable bearing member 40 in adjusted axial positions along the rod section 34 (see column 2, lines 33-51). In addition, binder screws 58 are provided for engagement of axial members 28 (see column 3, lines 29-30).

The Applicants respectfully submit that Kean is not related to a bread maker. Thus, there is no motivation to combine Kean with Park et al. Further, the binder screws 48, 58 of Kean are not comparable to the Applicants' "adjusting member" as recited in amended claim 1, for example. That is, the binder screw 48 is used to merely adjust the slidable bearing member 40, and the binder screws 58 merely provide adjustable connection in an axial direction.

Therefore, the combination of the foregoing references fails to provide a prima facie case of obviousness over the present invention.

Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

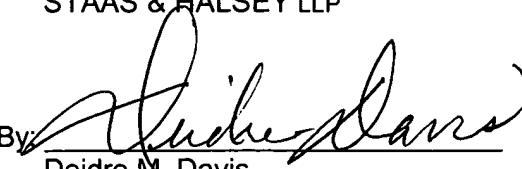
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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